

Division of Family & Children



Demographic Trend ^{SEY}2003 Report

Bureau of
Family Resources

Section E
Housing & Community
Services



Housing and Community Services

Indiana's Housing and Community Services Section (HCSS) is part of the Bureau of Family Resources in the Division of Family and Children. HCSS provides assistance to low-income families and individuals across Indiana. The section administers 20 grants through the implementation of nine distinctive programs benefiting eligible Indiana residents. Programs include:

- Community Services Block Grant
- Housing Services
- Emergency Shelter Grants
- Energy Assistance Program
- Weatherization
- Nutritional Services
- Information and Referral services
- Family Development Program
- Domestic Violence Programs

With a budget in excess of \$100 million, HCSS provides services through many community and social service organizations throughout the state. The majority of funds are sub-granted to 24 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) which serve all 92 counties throughout Indiana.

Within Indiana, programs targeting low-income persons are being administered, implemented and coordinated by CAAs and other local agencies. HCSS strives to increase collaboration and cooperation among local agencies to target the individual and/or family goal of attaining self-sufficiency.

Community Services Block Grant

Indiana's Community Services Block Grant provides funds for various services and activities which have a measurable and major impact on the causes of poverty. Community Action Agencies use these funds to initiate, supplement and implement many local community efforts. These projects include, but are not limited to:

- Drug treatment
- Information and referral networks
- Nutritional assistance
- Education assistance
- Housing assistance
- Counseling
- Employment/training
- Emergency assistance
- Youth programs
- Transportation
- Income maintenance

The State of Indiana provides Community Services Block Grant funds to the 24 Community Action Agencies that deliver services throughout Indiana's 92 counties. These agencies utilize their awards to provide many programs within their service areas to low-income individuals and families. Specific programs may target a smaller population, such as elderly, families with children or homeless persons. Households with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible to receive benefits from programs funded by this grant.

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The program operates on a calendar year and is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Funding in 2003 totaled \$11,030,048 and provided services to 196,908 households or 516,636 individuals throughout Indiana.

Housing Services

Indiana's Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) assists very low-income households with rental assistance. The State of Indiana administers housing services in areas of the state not covered by a local housing agency which includes parts of 82 counties throughout the state. Locally, the services are provided by subcontractors, including Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and local housing agencies.

To be eligible for housing assistance households must fall within guidelines set at 50% of state median income. In June of 2003, there were 3,969 households receiving housing assistance through the state program. Two-thirds of the households have elderly or disabled members. Demand for the program is greater than the number of available vouchers leaving over 9,138 households on a pre-application list waiting for assistance as of August 2003.

Once selected from the waiting list, families rent housing under a lease with the property owner to pay their share of the rent and are subject to all of the normal conditions that the owner's lease stipulates. The state contracts separately to pay the eligible amount of assistance to the owner. The owner must agree to rent the property for the combined amount of the tenant payment and the housing assistance payment, an amount that must be "reasonable," meaning in line with rent charged at similar properties in the area, as established by studies made in that area by the state and local contractors. The owner further agrees to maintain the property within Housing Quality Standards, established by the program to assure decent and safe housing. In August of 2003, the average payment to a landlord on behalf of a qualifying household was \$348.45.

Once a family selects decent, safe and affordable housing, HCSS staff and/or subcontractors inspect the units, conduct rent reasonableness studies, prepare contracts and leases as they relate to housing units, and negotiate rent levels with owners. In addition to using assistance for rental units, some families are eligible to use housing assistance to purchase a home. (see section on Family Self-Sufficiency for details)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides funding for the program. In fiscal year ending June 30, 2003 that amounted to \$20,453,212. Ninety percent of the funds are used for actual rental assistance.

The Family Unification Program (FUP)

The Family Unification Program provides housing assistance vouchers to families with children at risk of an out-of-home placement due to a lack of adequate housing. The lack of adequate housing includes, but is not limited to, families displaced by domestic violence in instances where the victim has vacated a housing unit because of domestic violence or lives with a person who engages in domestic violence.

This is a coordinated effort within the Division of Family and Children, between the Bureau of Family Protection and Preservation and the Bureau of Family Resources (Housing and Community Services Section). The Bureau of Family Protection and Preservation's Child Protection Case Managers identify families who lack adequate housing and refer the families to Housing and Community Services Section for processing.

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The Department of Housing and Urban Development provided funding for 200 slots under Family Unification. All 200 slots were filled within two years of the program initiative.

The Mainstream Program

The Mainstream Program is a joint project of the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS) and the Division of Family and Children's Housing and Community Services Section. The purpose of the program is to provide rental assistance vouchers to enable persons with disabilities (elderly and non-elderly) to rent affordable private housing. DDARS will refer clients to the program, provide caseworker assistance to the eligible individuals and families in finding suitable housing (as needed), and provide appropriate on-going case management, assistance and support. Recipients may live in a mobile home, apartment, double, single home, etc. It does not cover congregate living settings such as nursing homes, schools, etc.

The Mainstream Program targets very low-income, disabled families (including individuals) who are on the Housing Choice Voucher waiting list of applicants. A disabled person is someone who:

- a) Has a disability as defined in section 223 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423), or
- b) Is determined to have a physical, mental or emotional impairment that:
 - I. Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
 - II. Substantially impeded his or her ability to live independently; and
 - III. Is of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions, or
- c) Has a developmental disability as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6004 (5)).

The term "persons with disabilities" does not exclude persons who have the disease of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV).

The Community Action Agencies provide this service throughout the year. In 2003, 148 families received assistance and services through the Mainstream Program.

Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)

Indiana's Housing Choice Voucher Program and Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, administered by HCSS provides rental voucher assistance in conjunction with public and private-sector services and resources that can help residents of assisted housing achieve economic independence. Use of housing as a stabilizing force permits the families to invest their energy into other efforts including employment, education, and job training that are necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

To be eligible, families must be current voucher holders. Participants in the FSS Program are provided with an opportunity to save for the future through the FSS Escrow Account. Increases in the family's contribution for rent, due to increases in earned income, are credited to an interest bearing escrow account. After the family successfully completes the program, the escrow balance can be withdrawn by the family to be used in any manner. Most FSS Program participants have used the escrow monies to continue working, buy an automobile or make a down payment on a home.

To date there have been 68 graduates of the program. During Fiscal Year 2003, the FSS Program awarded a total of \$47,786 to participants who successfully completed the program. Participating Community Action Agencies, under contract with the Division of Family and Children

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manage the program throughout the entire year. In 2003, a total 136 families received services through FSS.

Interim Assistance Reimbursement Program

Indiana's Interim Assistance Reimbursement Program helps eligible clients pay routine expenses (rent, utilities, prescription drugs, etc) as they await approval from the Social Security Administration for disability determination and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Any assistance given to the client is repaid to the trustee from the client's first SSI check. These repaid trustee funds can then be given to another eligible client.

Local township trustee offices in conjunction with Indiana Township Trustees Association provide this service to eligible clients who have applied for Supplemental Security Income and meet income guidelines for trustee assistance. All 1,008 township trustees are required to participate in this program. Two percent of the reimbursement amount returned to the trustee is retained by DFC as a processing charge.

Emergency Shelter Grant

It is estimated that there are approximately 88,000 individuals in the state of Indiana that are homeless. FSSA reported serving an unduplicated count of 18,322 persons experiencing homelessness at the end of June of 2003. The ESG served over 90 shelters and provided over 3,000 beds for individuals and families in 2003.

Indiana's Emergency shelter Grant provides funds for basic operating expenses and homeless prevention activities incurred by shelters, missions and homeless service organizations. The shelters provide a variety of services, beds meals and support services to the homeless population or to those who are in danger of becoming homeless. These services are for the homeless, youth shelters, violence, transitional housing, substance abuse and veterans. This program is not income-based. An individual or family must be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

It is funded through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, administered through HUD. ESG's portion is approximately 3% and FSSA received \$1,771,000.00 for 2003-2004 state fiscal year.

Grantees are selected through a competitive Proposal process and any shelter that has been established as non-profit status and has been working in the community can apply for funding. The funds can be used for services in three areas of shelter care:

1. Essential Services: Case management in areas such as employment, health, substance abuse, education and housing.
2. Operations: Shelter cost such as utilities, staff salaries, trash removal, office supplies, shelter furnishing, etc.
3. Homeless Prevention: Financial assistance to families who are about to be evicted, utility payments for those disconnected.

The Emergency Shelter Grant Program communicates and shares information with a number of community programs. Some of those partners include Indiana Community Action Association, Indiana Interagency Council for the Homeless, the Indiana Housing Finance Authority, Coalition for Homeless, the Indiana Housing Finance Authority, Coalition for Homelessness Intervention

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and Prevention, the Indiana Coalition on Housing & Homeless Issues, and the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Indiana's Energy Assistance Program (EAP), provides financial assistance to low-income households to maintain utility services during the winter heating season. In addition to financial benefits, the program provides services in the form of information and referral to other programs or services directly provided by the Community Action Agency (CAA) or other community agencies. The direct services include home weatherization, case management and energy education.

Households with income at or below 125% of the established federal poverty guidelines are eligible. Benefit amounts are based on a household's "energy burden", which is the total household energy cost in ratio to its income level. Households may receive a crisis benefit, a one-time credit, up to \$200 over the regular benefit to prevent disconnect and is directly applied to a household's utility bill.

From October 2002 through September 2003, 126,855 households were provided a one-time benefit averaging \$264 on their annual heating bills. About 27% of those households received additional crisis benefits to prevent disconnection of their heat. In addition 34,478 at-risk households were provided cooling benefits during the summer. Also, 943 dwellings were weatherized using a set-aside of Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds for that program.

In addition to EAP benefits, Indiana state law established a moratorium on winter disconnects from December 1 through March 15 so that during cold winter months, regulated utility companies can not shut off home heating service to low-income families. During hot summer months, the EAP provides limited funds for the purchase of fans and air conditioners, and payment to electric vendors, which are distributed at the local level. Cooling funds are available from June 1 until September 30, or until funds are depleted.

Energy Assistance Program services and benefits are implemented through contracts with the 24 Community Action Agencies covering all 92 counties of the state. These agencies provide intake, application processing and utility vendor payments. The program begins in November of each heating season and ends on May 31, unless funds are depleted sooner. Benefits are provided on a first come, first serve basis.

Funding 2003

U.S. Dept. of Health/Human Services	\$47,308,574
EXXON Settlement (Oil Overcharge)	\$2,000,000
Total	\$49,308,574

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Weatherization Assistance Program

Weatherization agencies have established a professional delivery system to provide quality energy efficiency services and materials. The integration of advanced technologies has increased the program's impact. Results include an advanced energy audit used to determine most cost-effective measures; blowerdoor directed air sealing is utilized to produce higher energy savings; and \$1.80 in energy savings and \$.60 in employment and environmental benefits for every \$1.00 spent. Weatherization measures reduce average annual heating costs by \$193 per dwelling. The program has other economic impacts as fifty-two direct jobs are created for every million dollars invested. Current federal program funding supports about 7,000 jobs nationwide. Many of the jobs created by the program are in low-income areas, where they are most needed. Weatherization continues to be a wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

Indiana's Weatherization Assistance Program provides residential energy conservation services to the dwellings occupied by low income citizens of Indiana, thereby reducing their energy costs, while safeguarding their health and safety. Funding comes from federal sources and is allocated to CAAs to provide services in each of Indiana's 92 counties. The CAAs use agency crews or private contractors to provide comprehensive energy conservation services. A thorough evaluation of the structure, including the safe and efficient operation of the furnace and water heater, is included in the treatment of each home. Weatherization technicians use advanced energy audits and diagnostic equipment to identify the cost effective, energy saving measures for each home.

Households with income at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible to receive benefits funded by this grant. Additionally, households who qualify and receive TANF, Supplemental Security Income and/or Energy Assistance are categorically eligible for Weatherization Services.

This program continues throughout the entire year.

Funding 2003

U.S. Dept. of Health/Human Services	\$3,604,000
U.S. Dept. Energy	\$6,836,551
Stripper Well Settlement (Oil Overcharge)	\$2,000,000
Total	\$12,440,551

Indiana Emergency Food Assistance Program

Indiana's Food Assistance Program provides U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) commodities to more than 600 food pantries and 150 soup kitchens in Indiana. These products, along with donated and purchased goods, provide meals to needy individuals and families. Depending upon availability, client choice of products may include: peanut butter, canned fruits and juices, canned vegetables, salmon/tuna, soup, pasta, canned, fresh and frozen fruit, dehydrated potatoes, nuts, canned and frozen meats, fresh produce, various canned juices, instant milk and bakery mix.

Commodities are provided to Recipient Agencies (RA's) throughout Indiana. RA's are either Food Banks or Community Action Agencies. These agencies, in turn, distribute products to local food pantries and soup kitchens within their service areas.

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Households with incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty guidelines or in an emergency situation are eligible to receive products from food pantries. Food pantry clients must sign statements declaring eligibility. Soup kitchens are required to provide meals to all persons who are in need of their service. The program runs the entire year with food being shipped 4 to 6 times a year to Distributing Recipient Agencies for distribution to pantries and soup kitchens.

Funding 2003

U.S.D.A.	988,627
State of Indiana	146,000
Total	1,134,627

Community Food and Nutrition

Indiana's Community Food and Nutrition Program helps sponsor information on food storage, health and safety, preparation and transportation for a wide variety of agencies, service organizations, and technical experts. These sessions target soup kitchens and food pantry volunteers and staff members.

The program, provided through Purdue University in Lafayette, operates throughout the entire year and is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Funding for FY 2003 was \$65,613.

Consolidated Outreach Project

To further demonstrate the innovative coordination efforts of this program, the Consolidated Outreach Project (COP) in cooperation with the Emergency Food Assistance program, annually provides 10,000 to 12,000 migrant and seasonal farm workers with food from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Commodities and supplemental items from the Gleaners Food Bank and 10 Migrant Food Pantries. These pantries are open during non-traditional hours and at the convenience of the farm workers, enabling these clients not to miss work. Also, staff from the COP has worked nights and weekends in order to assure that Spanish-speaking staff are available during the pantries' hours of operation.

Indiana's Consolidated Outreach Project is a public-private partnership with the Department of Education, Workforce Development and Indiana Health Centers, Inc. to coordinate services for migrant and seasonal farm workers.

Individuals and families whose primary income is derived from employment in agriculture and who may or may not occupy temporary housing for the purpose of this employment are eligible to receive these services. Bilingual case managers complete needs assessments, direct referrals to local service providers and conduct follow-up reviews for all migrant and seasonal farm worker households. Comprehensive statistical data is also collected on each person assisted. Migrant farm workers are usually present during the growing season, April through October. Seasonal farm workers and settled-out families receive assistance all year round.

In cooperation with the Emergency Food Assistance Program the Consolidated Outreach Project (COP) provided 12,000 individuals with food through 8 local food pantries. These pantries

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received the U.S. Department of Agriculture Commodities as well as supplemental food provided through The Gleaners Food Bank.

Funding 2003

SSBG	\$129,122
Indiana Department of Education	\$30,000
DWD	\$30,000
CSBG-D	\$40,878
Total	\$230,000

Domestic Violence Program

In a national survey of over 6,000 American Families, 50% of the men who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. Over 3 million children are at risk of exposure to parental violence each year. Children are present in 40-55% of homes where police intervene in domestic violence calls. 63% of juveniles charged with murder are there for killing an abusive father, stepfather or mother's live-in boyfriend in an attempt to protect their mother. Abuse or neglect as a child increases the risk of arrest as a juvenile by 53%, as an adult by 38%, and for a violent crime by 38%.

Domestic Violence Shelter programs provide services, without regard to income, to persons at least 18 years of age who have experienced or are at-risk of experiencing abuse either physical or emotional caused by a spouse, ex-spouse, partner, other family members or persons in a shared domicile. Victims who receive services must be residents of Indiana.

The Domestic Violence Programs operate throughout the year with funding from the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Grant (DVPT) and the Federal Family Violence Grant (FFV).

SSBG funds can be used to provide: residential services to victims of domestic violence; temporary shelter and meals; 24-hour crisis intervention; case management services; and emergency transportation for victims of family violence and their dependent children. Services are short-term for emergency and crisis situations and are not to exceed 45 days per incident.

DVPT funds can be used to provide comprehensive residential services and non-residential services to victims of family violence and their dependent children. Services are short-term for crisis situations and generally limited to 45 days per episode from point of intervention. Non-residential services provide for victims of family violence, support and/or educational groups, advocacy, on-going support and follow-up assistance for victims, counseling, case management, and emergency or essential transportation. DVPT funds are state funds provided through accumulated court fees and marriage license fees.

FFV funds can be used to provide services directed to under-served populations, including children, minorities and rural populations. This grant assists in establishing, maintaining and expanding programs and projects to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and other related assistance for victims of family violence (including the elderly). This service provides crisis assistance to any victim threatened by violence; information and

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referral and victim advocacy services in the areas of health, social and mental health services, family counseling, job training and employment opportunities, legal advocacy, and counseling for victims and their children.

Sexual Offense Services

This program seeks to reduce rape and attempted rape of females aged 12 and older and reduce the incidence of maltreatment of children younger than age 18 by providing education, sex offense resource materials, training on child maltreatment, and developing a comprehensive system of sex offense services statewide.

Shelters and other social services agencies, especially Rape Crisis Programs provide services to Indiana females throughout the year. There are no eligibility requirements and funding is provided through the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant.

Funding 2003

Sexual Offense Services	148,899
DVPT	1,900,000
SSBG	951,420
FFV	1,781,430

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INDIANA COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

Indiana Community Action Association

(INCAA)
Edward A. Gerardot,
Executive Director
1845 W. 18th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-1015
317-638-4232 or 800-382-9895
Fax: 317-634-7947

A.C.T.I.O.N., Inc. of Delaware County

(ACTION)
Robert Schmidt,
Executive Director
105 N. Ridge Rd., P.O. Box 268
Muncie, IN 47308-0268
765-289-2313 Fax: 765-289-
1192
Counties: Delaware and Grant

Area IV Agency on Aging and Community Action Programs, Inc.

(AREA IV)
Sharon Wood,
Executive Director
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Lafayette, IN 47903-4727
765-447-7683 or 800-382-7556
Fax: 765-447-6862
area4@wcic.org
Counties: Carroll, Clinton,
Tippecanoe and White

Area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services, Inc.

(AREA V)
Michael Meagher,
Executive Director
1801 Smith Street, Suite 300
Logansport, IN 46947-1577
574-722-4451 or 800-654-9421
Fax: 574-722-3447
Counties: Cass, Howard,
Miami, Tipton and Wabash

Community Action of East Central Indiana, Inc.

(CAECI)
Lynn Galloway,
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Richmond, IN 47375-1314
765-966-7733
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caeci@infocom.com
Counties: Fayette, Union and
Wayne

COMMUNITY ACTION of Greater Indianapolis, Inc.

(CAGI)
John Thomas, President
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317-396-1800
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1528
Counties: Boone, Hamilton,
Hendricks and Marion

Community Action of Northeast Indiana, Inc. (CANI)

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Fax: 260-422-4041
Counties: Allen, LaGrange,
Noble, Whitley,
Steuben and Dekalb

Community Action of Southern Indiana (CASI)

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812-288-6451
Fax: 812-284-8314
Counties: Clark, Floyd and
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Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (COWI)

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Fax: 765-793-4884
Counties: Benton, Fountain,
Montgomery, Parke, Vermillion
and Warren

Community Action Program of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, Inc. (CAPE)

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Counties: Gibson, Posey, and
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Community & Family Services, Inc. (CFS)

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Huntington, Jay, Randolph and
Wells

Dubois-Pike-Warrick Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc.

(TRICAP)
Jane Chappell,
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Jasper, IN 47547-0729
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Counties: Dubois, Pike and
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Housing and Community Services

**Hoosier Uplands Economic
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Counties: Lawrence, Martin,
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Human Services, Inc. (HSI)

Mary Meredith, Executive
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812-376-9431
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Counties: Bartholomew,
Decatur, Jackson, Johnson
and Shelby

**Interlocal Community Action
Program, Inc. (ICAP)**

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Counties: Hancock, Henry and
Rush

JobSource (JS)

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Counties: Madison

Northwest Community Action

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Counties: Jasper, Lake,
Newton and Porter

**Lincoln Hills Development
Corporation (LHDC)**

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Tell City, IN 47586-0336
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Counties: Crawford, Perry and
Spencer

**North Central Community
Action**

Agencies, Inc. (NCCAA)
Daniel Pishkur,
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Michigan City, IN 46360
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Fax: 219-842-0174
Counties: LaPorte, Pulaski and
Starke

**Ohio Valley Opportunities, Inc.
(OVO)**

Debbie L. Myers,
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Madison, IN 47250
812-265-5858 or 800-928-1232
Fax: 812-265-5850
Counties: Jefferson, Jennings
and Scott

REAL Services, Inc. (REAL)

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Fax: 574-284-2642
Counties: Elkhart, Fulton,
Kosciusko, Marshall,
and St. Joseph

**South Central Community
Action Program, Inc.
(SCCAP)**

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812-339-3447
Fax: 812-334-8366
Counties: Brown, Monroe,
Morgan and Owen

**Southeastern Indiana
Economic Opportunity
Corporation (SIEOC)**

Beverly Henry,
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812-926-1585 or 800-755-8558
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Counties: Dearborn, Franklin,
Ohio, Ripley and
Switzerland

**Wabash Valley Human
Services, Inc. (WVHS)**

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**Western Indiana Community
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